

2

Science Standard
2.2.c. and 2.2.d.

Supports
English-Language
Arts Standard
Reading 2.2.4.



Teacher's Edition
California Education and the Environment Initiative

DRAFT
for discussion purposes only



Alike and Different

California's Environmental Principles



The State of California's Environmental Principles and Concepts were approved in 2004 under a law referred to as the California Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI). The law called for the development of Environmental Principles and Concepts that are compatible with the State's academic content standards and, as such, would become a formal part of California's K-12 education system. The EEI Curriculum, which this unit is part of, is designed to help students simultaneously achieve mastery of selected academic content standards and California's Environmental Principles and Concepts.

Principle I

People Depend on Natural Systems

The continuation and health of individual human lives
and of human communities and societies
depend on the health of the natural systems that provide essential goods
and ecosystem services.

Principle II

People Influence Natural Systems

The long-term functioning and health of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems
are influenced by their relationships with human societies.

Principle III

Natural Systems Change in Ways that People Benefit from and Can Influence

Natural systems proceed through cycles
that humans depend upon, benefit from and can alter.

Principle IV

There are no Permanent or Impermeable Boundaries that Prevent Matter from Flowing Between Systems

The exchange of matter between natural systems and human societies
affects the long-term functioning of both.

Principle V

Decisions Affecting Resources and Natural Systems are Complex and Involve Many Factors

Decisions affecting resources and natural systems
are based on a wide range of considerations
and decision-making processes.

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